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PLOT TO WRECK HALIFAX SUSPECTED; DEAD NUMBER 2000

WAR EXPENSES ON HAWAII SUGAR BRING BONUS CHANGE

Basis of Payment to Be Average Price For Sales of Hawaiian Product and Bonus Hereafter Will Commence With Sugar at \$85 Per Ton

Formal announcement was made this morning by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association of a new bonus schedule, to date from November 1, 1917.

Under the new schedule the two important changes are as follows:

1. The basis of the bonus hereafter will be the average price upon which sales of Hawaiian raw sugars are determined, instead of the average daily New York market price.

2. The bonus will begin with sugar at \$85 per ton instead of \$71 per ton.

The announcement today emphasizes the heavy war expenses which the plantations must meet and are meeting as the prime reason for the change.

After weeks of consideration and several days of active discussion during the annual planters' meeting, the announcement was made this morning through the planters' bureau of labor and statistics, R. D. Mead, director. It is published in full herewith:

BONUS ANNOUNCEMENT.

"When the bonus system was inaugurated in January, 1912, \$71 per ton was set as the point where the bonus should begin as being a fair figure when there was taken into consideration the average cost at market of Hawaiian sugar at that time. Since the European war started conditions have radically changed, and the entry of the United States into the struggle has been followed by a heavy increase in all of the expenses of the plantations.

"During the past two years, by reason of the war, the cost of producing sugar in Hawaii has increased in excess of \$25 per ton.

"In addition to this the plantations must face a large increase of freight rates on sugar as well as all materials imported, and must also pay income and war taxes which will amount to at least 25 per cent of their profits.

"On account of these increased costs it has been found necessary to amend the bonus schedule.

The following bonus schedule is therefore announced to date from November 1, 1917, and to continue until further notice:

"The basis of the bonus shall be the average price upon which sales of Hawaiian raw sugars are determined.

"The bonus of 1 1/2 per cent will commence with sugar at \$85 per ton and will increase 1 1/2 per cent for every dollar per ton over \$85, and 33 1/3 per cent of the wages earned will be paid monthly as an advance on account of the bonus as heretofore.

SLIDING SCALE BONUS.

"The sliding scale bonus plan adopted by the plantations January 1, 1912, and amended as of April 1, 1916, shall be amended to read and be as hereinafter set forth.

First—Bonus Period.

"The bonus period will be for the twelve months to and October 31 in (Continued on page Two)

ARMED FREIGHTER WITH AUSTRALIAN WHEAT IN PORT

Movements of the immense stocks of wheat in Australia to America has begun, if the cargo of an Australian government owned ship is port today is a criterion. Officers are necessarily secret about details concerning the movement of their ship, but it is admitted that the cargo is wheat.

The surprise expressed as to the shipment of wheat to the United States is met with the explanation that the American wheat is being sent to Europe and the Australian product to the states.

There are miles and miles of stacks of wheat in every seaport in Australia. This is from the crops of 1915 and 1916, with the crop of the present year being harvested.

The Australian boat which is taking the wheat to the coast is armed with a big gun.

Word has been received by Arthur Rice of this city that Thomas Nelson, the mining engineer sent to the Philippines by a number of Honolulu capitalists to investigate a lead mining property, is now on his way back to report on his work.

\$3,712,500 IS QUOTA OF WAR THRIFT-STAMPS

For Each \$80 So Invested Government Will Pay \$100 in Five Years

Hawaii's quota in the war savings certificate campaign which opened on December 3 throughout the United States has been announced as \$3,712,500. This is figured on the basis outlined by the war savings certificate committee at Washington, D. C., which has decided that in order to dispose of the \$2,000,000,000 of certificates it will be necessary for every man, woman and child in the United States and its territories to save \$16.50 and invest that amount in the certificates.

The local campaign will be in charge of Postmaster D. H. MacAdam who is authorized to appoint agents to prosecute the work which will start in the territory as soon as the thrift stamps, the war savings stamps and the war savings certificates arrive from the mainland. They are expected to be here within the next few days.

Every city and rural mail carrier will become a solicitor for the sale of the certificates and will carry a certain number of each with him on his daily rounds. Besides that, the information received by Postmaster MacAdam states that a director is to be appointed by the treasury department for each state. Whether such a director is to be appointed here is not known, but the local Liberty Loan committee has asked the officials in Washington what is to be done on that point.

The certificates will continue to be sold throughout next year. The plan of saving which has been outlined before is as follows: Two fifty-cent stamps will buy a thrift stamp and a thrift card will be provided with sixteen spaces. As each stamp is purchased it is affixed to the card and when all the spaces are filled the card is turned in to the postoffice together with 12 cents for which a war savings stamp with a par value of five dollars maturing in five years is given. With the war savings stamp comes a war savings certificate with twenty spaces in which the war savings stamps may be pasted. When the war savings certificate is filled with stamps it will have cost the subscriber \$80.12. In five years that war savings certificate will be worth \$100.

FOOD 'DRIVE' MEETS SUCCESS

More than 100 patriotic women are giving their time to Uncle Sam today in bringing local housewives into line with the great nation-wide movement to conserve America's food supply. Bright and early this morning the district leaders and their lieutenants began a canvass of the city for signers of the food pledge cards, and by tomorrow evening it is expected that thousands of women will have mailed their cards to the local federal food administrator.

A noticeable feature of the local "drive" is that many housewives are signing cards who had not signed them when a campaign was started some time ago. In this instance the cards were mailed direct to the food administration in Washington. Reports from the leaders of the food commission office, where Mrs. A. C. Alexander, chairman, and other members of the woman's committee are busy dealing out equipment, show that the housewives are signing cards by the hundreds, and it was announced this afternoon that the success of the local "drive" is now assured.

A delegation of Japanese women, led by Miss Tanaka and Mrs. Mural, wife of the Japanese consul, are canvassing the Nipponese homes. The first reports of the campaign are expected to drift in late this afternoon, and by tomorrow morning the woman's committee expects to have a complete account of the results of the first day's work.

FRANKLIN DENIES RODIEK DEFIANCE

Collector of Customs Franklin contradicted emphatically today that George Rodiek "dared" him to board the interned German cruiser Geier when the cruiser's boilers were being burned out to cripple the vessel, as alleged in an advertiser editorial today. "There was no such incident," says the collector. "Rodiek made no such statement to me nor anything approaching it, nor it may be added, to any member of the customs staff. I feel it but fair that this report be set at naught."

Mobilization Call For Guard Coming January 15, Report

The Hawaii National Guard is expected to receive its mobilization orders about Jan. 15. The call for active service at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter will probably follow in a few days.

Indications and reports that also going the rounds makes it appear that the army is preparing to call the guard into early service.

It is known that a quiet tip has been passed around to some of the guard officers to be prepared to report for service the middle of January and have been advised to see that their equipments and uniforms are in condition for quick service.

It is further reported that physical examination of recruits to fill up depleted ranks to full strength will be held between Jan. 5 and 10. Jan. 15 is the day on which it is rumored the mobilization call will be issued, and on Jan. 18, the reports say, the men will be ordered to camp.

MARKET SHUT ON URGING OF FOOD BOARD?

President Rice Says Agricultural Board Acted on Advice of Territorial Commission

That the retail department of the territorial marketing division was closed at the suggestion and upon the advice of the territorial food commission and Superintendent A. T. Longley was stated today by Arthur H. Rice, president of the board of agriculture and forestry.

This statement was made by President Rice when asked by the Star-Bulletin if the board is planning any meeting to discuss the reopening of the market in view of the numerous protests from citizens since announcement of closing down was given.

"No protest has been filed with the board," said Mr. Rice. "We are attempting to work in conjunction with the food commission, and it was on the suggestion of the food commission that we closed the market. Superintendent Longley also advised this action."

Mr. Rice says that while it is true that the market has made little or no profit, that profit is not the fundamental purpose of the institution. It was formed to give the small producer an opportunity to market his crops, he says.

"I may say also," continued Mr. Rice, "that I am not president of the Hawaii Meat Co. I resigned that position three months ago."

J. F. Child, federal food commissioner, declared today he had nothing whatever to do with the closing of the market. The food commissioners are James D. Dole, chairman; Richard Ivers, F. E. Blake, C. G. Bockus, A. V. Neely and John Waterhouse. A. L. Castle is executive officer and Mr. Child is assistant executive officer.

Mr. Longley's advice to close down the market was given about a month previous to action by the board of agriculture, and the reason for it was that the market was losing money at that time, he said today.

Reasons given by him for this condition are that the market did not have the necessary equipment for such business, that its location was not what it should have been and that it did not have a steady supply of enough variety to satisfy customers. Complaints on this last were frequently heard from them.

"At the time the legislature transferred the market to the board of agriculture I considered the retail market necessary," says Mr. Longley, "but now all produce can be sold to dealers."

(Continued on page Two)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

The Star-Bulletin has been asked to collect at once current magazines to be used by soldiers leaving Hawaii. In this patriotic cause it is hoped the public will join. The magazines must be secured tomorrow. If possible, bring your contributions to the Star-Bulletin office. If this is not possible, please the Star-Bulletin, 241, give your address to Harry S. Hayward, and arrangements will be made to send and get your magazines. Tomorrow's box will be the best time to make such collections.

WAR MEASURE IS PASSED BY SENATE; RUSS ARMISTICE ON

Congress Hurries Resolutions Declaring Austria an Enemy; Berlin Claims Another Italian Victory

(Associated Press by U. S. Naval Wireless.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 7.—With less than an hour of debate the senate today passed the resolution introduced by Senator Stone late yesterday declaring war against Austria. Congressmen fled today introduced the war resolution in the lower house, opened the debate on the measure and asked for its speedy passage.

BERLIN, Germany, Dec. 7.—It was announced formally yesterday that there has been a suspension of hostilities by Germany along the whole Russian front for ten days from noon Friday.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 7.—The senate war resolution calls for a declaration of war only against Austria.

BERLIN, Germany, Dec. 7.—Four thousand more Italians have been taken on the Austro-German front, says an official announcement today.

Relief Trains are Rushed to Halifax

(Associated Press by U. S. Naval Wireless.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 7.—Three relief trains have been started for Halifax with doctors, nurses and supplies of food and clothing.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Dec. 7.—A relief train will start for Halifax from New York tomorrow.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 7.—This city is contributing a fully-equipped hospital train to be rushed to Halifax at once.

RAILROAD WAR BOARD TELLS NEED OF ROADS TO SENATOR NEWLANDS

(Associated Press by U. S. Naval Wireless.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 7.—The railroad war board yesterday told Senator Newlands, chairman of the senate interstate commerce committee, that if the unification restrictions on railroad traffic are removed unification will be unnecessary. The railroad men promise to estimate their financial needs and make statement thereof. Unofficially it is said they will need additional revenues of a billion dollars.

SAN PEDRO ACCIDENT MAY BE TRACED BACK TO AN ENEMY PLOTTER

(Associated Press by U. S. Naval Wireless.)
SAN PEDRO, Cal., Dec. 7.—Nine men were hurt yesterday while at work in the hold of a ship under construction when an air riveter pipe which in some way not yet explained was attached to a gas jet ignited when the machinery was set at work upon a hot rivet.

BETHLEHEM STEEL CO. WANTS U. S. TO ASSIST IN CONTRACT FINANCING

(Associated Press by U. S. Naval Wireless.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 7.—The Bethlehem Steel Co. today asked an advance from the government on account of munitions to be delivered. The company informed Secretaries Baker and Daniels that it is unable to finance the work through the banks.

INDIA PLOT INCLUDED PLANS FOR "HOLY WAR"

(Associated Press by U. S. Naval Wireless.)
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7.—German and pro-German conspirators did not stop at seeking to incite fanatical Hindus to rebellion and rape and plunder, but their plans contemplated bloody massacres of all Christians in the British and French provinces was shown by the prosecution in evidence which was adduced yesterday in the prosecution of the case against the remaining defendants in the conspiracy case now on trial in the federal court.

Douglas Rekker, called as a witness for the prosecution, told of the part which he had played to bring about a "holy war" by the Muslims upon the Christians. He testified that it was agreed that he should select a Mohammedan priest and of his choice of Jave who was to be sent to Berlin. From Berlin the priest was, he said, to proceed to Constantinople, where he was to confer with the heads of the Mohammedan church in an effort to persuade them to incite the Muslims who were in British or French possession to such actions.

RELIEF TRAINS RUSHED FROM CITIES OF CANADA AND STATES

FOUR THOUSAND TONS OF TRINITROTULUAT EXPLODED—WHOLE DISTRICTS WIPE OUT—SAILORS AND MARINES PATROL CITY TO GUARD AGAINST LOOTING

(Associated Press by U. S. Naval Wireless.)
HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 7.—The estimate made late yesterday that the dead in Halifax number at least 2000 stood today as further reports came in.

(Associated Press by Commercial Pacific Cable)

TRURO, Nova Scotia, Dec. 7.—It is now reported that the cause of the Halifax explosion was the collision of a Norwegian food freighter which set fire to a munitions ship. The seacocks of the Norwegian ship were opened and the crew took to boats. It is possible they escaped.

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 7.—The fires which raged through Halifax yesterday are under control.

The district of Richmond has been virtually destroyed, with thousands of people hurt and not a house left undamaged.

Shrapnel thrown by the force of the explosion from the cars and warehouses where it was stored has been found three miles from the waterfront.

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 7.—Investigations today confirmed the fact that four thousand tons of the high explosive trinitrotuluat caused the first terrific detonation yesterday.

The fire, though somewhat under control, are continuing today and thousands are fighting them. Almost constant snowfall adds to the sufferings of those whose homes have been wrecked and who can scarcely find shelter in the shattered city.

Relief trains have already arrived from Truro, Moncton and Windsor. Trains of injured persons have been taken to Windsor and other hospitals. Business throughout the stricken city has been suspended indefinitely and all schools suspended until New Year's.

The estimate of 2000 dead still stands and it is estimated that at least 2000 have been injured.

Many thousands are helping in the relief work. Sailors and marines are patrolling the city rigidly and there is no looting in the wrecked districts.

Wireless communication has been established with outside points and the stunned city, rising from its disaster, is working with renewed energy to make the best of the situation. Today both wire and cable service are being reestablished.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 7.—The number of killed in Halifax is unknown, said advisers received early this morning from the naval commander aboard the U. S. S. Dartmouth.

His despatch said that all of North Halifax is destroyed and that a number of ships had been sunk and many others damaged.

CHINESE REBELS CAPTURE CITY

(Special Cable to Kings JH)
TOKIO, Japan, Dec. 7.—Following a fierce bombardment of two weeks, revolutionary troops entered the city of Chang King in Sze Chuen province yesterday. The Peking troops made a stubborn defense, but troops from Yunnan and Kweichow came to the assistance of the southern troops and the soldiers of the garrison were forced to retreat to Tching-tu, the capital of the province.

Chang King occupies a strategic position on the Yangtze-Kiang river and is the gateway to the entire province. It is estimated that thousands of lives were lost during the two weeks' siege. The Japanese cruiser Tuba sent marines to protect the Japanese consulate.

GAGE AND DILLINGHAM OUT FOR C. OF C. HEAD

J. F. C. Hagens, president of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, has not been recommended for the position in the return made by the nomination committee of the chamber for the position for the ensuing year. The names of Walter Dillingham and C. B. Gages have been listed as candidates for the position. The list of nominees for other offices in the chamber are not yet complete.

The election of officers and directors for the ensuing year will be the chief items of business at the annual meeting of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce on January 16, 1918.

Alexander Sher, a native of Russia; Joseph Fernandez, a native of Portugal; and G. J. Watson and Mary Isabel Wilson, natives of Great Britain.

WOULD DIVIDE PROFIT AMONG FISH FACTORS

J. F. Child Has Plan to Allow Consumer's Dollars to Dealers on Basis of Expense Account

Twenty per cent to the retailer, 5 per cent to the fish company and 13 per cent to the fisherman—this is the way J. F. Child, federal food commissioner, would divide the consumer's dollar among the three factors in the fishing industry in connection with his plan to have them agree on a price, or series of prices, at which fish shall be sold to the public.

This, however, does not represent profit. From the foregoing percentages the dealers and handlers would have to pay their expenses, the profit to be represented by what is left. Mr. Child met yesterday with a committee representing the Chinese retailers, and they expressed their willingness to accept an agreed price providing they are allowed to make a fair profit from their business. He will meet with the Japanese retailers next. Meetings with the fishermen and the fish companies will follow.

Administrator Child is still acting in his campaign to have fish dealt in by the pound instead of by count. But it will take some time, he believes, to get both retailers and public initiated into this new method of doing business.

Reports secured by Mr. Child show that in November one fishing company handled 19,920 pounds of fish valued at \$10,997, and 9,718 pounds of aku valued at \$3273. The auction price at which the aku was sold was about \$0.0335, or 3 1/2 cents a pound. The other fish sold at auction at about 12 cents a pound.

Another company in November handled 261,257 pounds of fish valued at \$21,576, which sold for about \$0.082 a pound.

In figuring that the fisherman should get at least 72 per cent of the consumer's dollar, Administrator Child points out that the fisherman is put to the greatest expense.

PALMYRA SALE IS HANGING FIRE

Final transfer of Palmyra island to California capitalists who wish to establish a cannery there will not be concluded until their representative has sent a report to San Francisco, so far as he knows, says Judge H. E. Cooper who arrived in Honolulu yesterday afternoon after a five weeks' voyage to the little atoll on the schooner Luka. He was accompanied on the voyage by Carl C. Engvoldsen, who was commissioned to investigate the resources of the island by the California capitalists.

That the California interests have an option on the island is known, but what the purchase price is to be has been kept secret. The intention is to build a modern fish cannery and develop the copra production of Palmyra, it is said.

While Judge Cooper was away it was reported that the Luka might have experienced severe weather and have foundered. Others who knew Judge Cooper's maritime knowledge scoffed the idea. The trip to Palmyra was made in 11 days and the return voyage, despite heavy squally weather, much sooner than was believed possible.

The condition of Hans Isenberg, president of the Lukin Plantation and Kona Sugar Company of Kona, remains the same. Mr. Isenberg was taken to the Queen's hospital Sunday night where he was operated on for